

Amendments to the Claims:

1 (Currently amended). An earth-working backhoe comprising

a) an open operator station having substantially unrestricted sight field to the
earth,

b) a boom mounted for swinging movement side-to-side within the sight
5 field from the operator station,

c) an operator-actuated control for the swinging movement of the boom, said
control also being near the sight field from the operator station, [and]

d) a transparent guard for blocking accidental access to the control from
outside the operator station[.],

e) said guard being of shatter-resistant plastic material, and

f) said guard having a height greater than the height of the lower edge of the
sight field from the operator station.

2 (Original). The backhoe of Claim 1 further characterized in that

a) said operation station has a floor and

b) said control is a foot-actuated control in proximity to the station floor.

3 (Original). The backhoe of Claim 2 further characterized in that

said guard extends from side-to-side of the operator station.

4 (Canceled).

5 (Canceled).

6 (Canceled).

7 (Currently amended). The backhoe of Claim [6] 1 further characterized in that
said guard is composed of a unitary sheet of plastic material.

8 (Canceled).